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CONTACT: Nikki Crosslin
Information Officer
(615)741-2257 (O)
(615)297-0105 (H)

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVILABLE

NASHVILLE – Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are available to workers in **Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, Shelby, Unicoi, and Washington** counties who were out of work as a direct result of severe flooding that began July 27, 2001, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Mike Magill reported.

“This is a very difficult time for area residents, and we want to make sure that workers who have lost their jobs and are eligible for benefits receive their checks as quickly as possible,” Magill said. “Any workers who feel they may be eligible for benefits should go immediately to their local Labor and Workforce Development office to register for DUA.”

Benefits will be paid under provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which became available when President Bush granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration in Tennessee at Governor Sundquist’s request.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the program on behalf of the federal government. According to Magill, persons unemployed as a direct result of the severe flooding must file their claim for DUA **benefits within 30 days of this announcement.**

“Individuals who are not covered for regular unemployment benefits may qualify for disaster unemployment benefits,” Magill explained. “This includes self-employed workers and others not covered by the state unemployment insurance program whose source of income has been interrupted by the flooding damage.”

Individuals should bring with them to the local office income tax returns for 2000, a social security number and any papers with wage and employment information prior to the disaster.

Weekly DUA benefit amounts are determined in the same way as regular unemployment benefits. Benefits range from \$96 to \$275 per week and are payable up to 26 weeks after the day of declaration, which was August 27, 2001. DUA benefits will end if unemployment is no longer caused by the flooding. Staff at the local Labor and Workforce Development offices will also provide re-employment assistance.

Persons who are unemployed should go to the Labor and Workforce Development office serving their county or an office conveniently located near them as shown below:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TDLWD OFFICE ADDRESS</u>	
Carter	386 Highway 91, Suite 1, Elizabethton	(423) 543-5209
Cocke	440 Eastern Plaza Way, Newport	(423) 623-1108
Greene	214 North College Street, Suite 100 Greeneville	(423) 639-5103
Johnson	110 Pioneer Village Shopping Center Mountain City	(423) 727-9426
Shelby	2745 S Mendenhall Rd, Memphis 1295 Poplar Avenue, Memphis	(901) 543-7831 (901) 543-7535
Unicoi	2850 Austin Peay Highway, Memphis Courthouse Building, North Main Street Erwin	(901) 543-7842 (423) 743-4146
Washington	206 High Pointe Drive, Johnson City	(423) 952-6050

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.